



Testimony of

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**Backus Federation of Nurses, AFT Local 5149**

Public Health Committee Public Hearing  
March 5, 2014

***HB 5384 An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing Levels***

My name is David Misiaszek and I support HB 5384 requiring hospital nursing staffing levels to be reported and available to the public. As a nurse for more than twenty years, a graduate of the UCONN School of Nursing, and having worked for many years as a critical care nurse, I feel the most important factor in patient safety and satisfaction is having enough nurses on duty each day.

HB 5384 will do three things for residents of the state of Connecticut:

- 1) It will clearly demonstrate the correlation between adequate staffing levels and good patient outcomes;
- 2) It will report deficits in staffing, which have led both young and experienced nurses to leave the profession due to the significant stress inadequate staffing creates; and
- 3) It will make sure that our hospitals maintain their commitments to their patients by setting high standards for nurse staffing.

HB 5384 also provides the hospital community and healthcare consumers with actual data that allows them to monitor quality of care.

I view my work in the hospital as a career and a civil service. A community needs enough police officers and firefighters on duty in case they are needed. Hospitals also need enough nurses on duty to take care of our family members.

Patients can become very sick very quickly in the critical care unit. If one nurse has an emergency, coworkers must assist while maintaining their own patient load. If patients are unstable on the general medical floors, the critical care nurses respond to those crises. If the emergency department has an unstable patient, we, as a team, get the patient to critical care as soon as possible.

Nurses are collaborators with the physicians and are thus extensions of their eyes, ears, and hands. You can ask any physician to identify the most important resource he or she

needs in order to successfully treat a patient in a hospital setting. The answer is always having enough skilled nurses to properly care for their patients.

I urge you to pass HB 5384 not just for the nurses on duty, but more importantly for the positive affect it will have on the lives of the patients. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
David Misiaszek, RN